

Amendments to the specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting with: "As the field of paper punches has evolved," with the following new paragraph. As the field of hand operated and hand-held paper punches has evolved, a new style of punch has been developed. This style of punch is shown in United States Patent 5,749,278. The hand-held punch uses a thumb-actuated lever to create the action of the punch. The adjustable apparatus of the preferred embodiment of the invention can be seen in FIG 1 where an externally threaded element 530 has been incorporated into the thumb-actuated punch thereby forming the machine 500. A matching threaded portion 535 is incorporated into the housing 550 where the threads of that portion 535 match to those of threaded element 530 and thereby form the adjustable apparatus of the invention. In use a sheet of material is placed in the fixed size slot 581 and the lever 520 pushed down to actuate the machine 500. The threaded element 530 is then rotated to either raise or lower that element 530 to form a stop to the vertical travel of the action of the machine 500 and to cut some or all of the designed punch pattern into the sheet of material.

As illustrated in FIG 1, the bottom portion 580 of the machine is an integrated part of the machine 500 thereby forming the fixed size slot 581. As an option the machine 500 could be manufactured with a snap apart bottom portion 580 where that portion 580 could be removed from the machine 500 after the sheet of material has been processed to aid in removal of that sheet of material from the machine 500.

Please delete the paragraph immediately following the above paragraph and starting with: "Once a cut has been made,"